



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Turkish system of laws and taxation has caused most of it to be divided among individual owners. In one case where commercial ownership still exists, Wilson was present at the annual division of land, one fall before the ploughing season began. When the number of prospective cultivators was known, the land was divided into a corresponding number of lots of equal value as nearly as might be. Each man then stuck a leaf into a large lump of clay, after which another man, belonging to the village, but not meaning to cultivate any land that year, was called in. He pulled out the leaves one by one, saying: "To the owner of this leaf I give such-and-such a piece of land." The Turkish system of taxation requires the payment of ready money. As cash is scarce, trade being largely by barter among the peasants, and as the Fellahin are improvident, the tax-payers have recourse to money-lenders in the cities. These usurers charge 20, 25, or even 30 per cent. per annum on large transactions with good security and up to 100 per cent. on small ones. Naturally, the peasants are often unable to pay their debts under such onerous conditions, and the land is fast passing into the hands of money-lenders.

Among the changes due to contact with Europe may be mentioned the dying out of old home-industries such as weaving, by reason of the introduction of foreign manufactures. In the matter of transportation the railroad and wheeled vehicles are supplanting the camel and donkey. New standards of comfort are being introduced by tourists, although the means of living up to them are diminishing. For instance, the supply of wood for fuel, always small, has of late been greatly reduced, steam flour-mills are the greatest transgressors upon the scanty forests, for a single mill soon consumes all the available wood for miles. It might be expected that the influx of foreign travellers would add to the prosperity of Palestine. Wilson thinks that it does not; or, at least, that in spite of it the peasants are steadily growing poorer under the oppression of Turkey and the paralysis of industry occasioned by recurring drought or other natural disasters.

In the first two chapters of his book Wilson discusses religion. He seems to think that aside from outward forms there is little difference between the Mohammedans and the nominal Christian of the Greek Church. The next subject is village and domestic life,—six chapters. The building of the common domed houses of mud and of the universal cisterns is discussed; and then trade, family life from birth to death, dress, diseases, and home industries are considered. The next four chapters, 9 to 12, take up the fundamental industries. Palestine has no universal resources and no advantages for commerce. The sole wealth lies in the soil, which can be utilized directly by means of agriculture or indirectly by stock-raising. The processes of agriculture are well described from the time of the sowing of wheat and barley during the "former" rains in November, through the "latter" rains in the spring and the five or six months of drought in summer to the harvesting of the grapes and olives in the fall. A vivid picture is likewise given of the exposed and wandering life which the shepherd must lead even though he have a permanent home.

E. H.

How to Study Geology. By Ernest Evans. viii and 272 pp., 112 Illustrations, 82 Experiments, and Index. Swan Sonnenschein & Co., London, 1907.

An excellent book for beginners. It forms a course of instruction in elementary geology, and is meant also as a guide to the study of the subject in the field. It embraces all the work required of the student for Stage I of the

British Board of Education Syllabus, and will be helpful, furthermore, to men and women who have no leisure to follow the technical descriptions given in survey monographs and ordinary text-books, but who would like to know more of the past history of the earth and have some guidance in field observation.

The book is commended by some of its special features, such as the simple experiments that are given throughout, the bold-face headlines in connection with the practical work explaining what principles each illustrates, and the systematic arrangement of the stratigraphical portion. Series of questions are given at the ends of chapters. This is one of the best of the elementary text-books, and it has special claims upon the attention of those who do not enjoy the advantage of a teacher in acquiring some knowledge of geology.

Statistical Abstract of the World. By **Henry Gannett.** viii and 84 pp., Index. John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1907. (Price, 75 cents.)

This little volume is filled with tables of statistics relating to the different peoples of the earth, products of the soil, mines, and fisheries, their manufactures, means of transportation, commerce, and social conditions. The tables are methodically arranged, the figures are the latest obtainable, and the fact that Mr. Gannett compiled the information inspires confidence in its accuracy. A copious index makes it easy to refer to any desired table.

Mr. Gannett says in his preface: "Statistics of the most recent single year are given in preference to the mean of several years as being, on the whole, nearest the truth." It is doubtful if this view is shared by many statisticians. It is well enough in this book, which aims to give only the latest information. In a larger work it would certainly be desirable to give an idea of average and comparative conditions, and this could best be attained by showing the means of several series of years. As a volume for handy reference this statistical abstract will serve a very useful purpose.

Regierung und Nutzbarmachung der Samoanischen Inseln. Von **Hermann Fiedler.** 12 pp. Wilhelm Süsserott, Berlin, 1906.

This is a plain, business-like discussion, chiefly of the economic conditions of the German colony, from which the author draws conclusions that seem reasonable. The United States harbour of Pago Pago is better than that of the German port Apia; but in very stormy weather steamers will not risk accident at the entrance to Pago Pago, and so carry the Samoan mails to Auckland. The sea journey between Pago Pago and Apia occupies ten hours. The commercial communications between the islands of the group are unsatisfactory, and fares and freights are too high. The author says that the interests of the German colony demand the establishment of German steamship connections, with a Government subsidy and the admission, duty free, of articles of necessity.

Samoa is connected with the outer world by one American and one New Zealand line, with irregular visits from a few other Australian, American, German, and Norwegian vessels. America and New Zealand supply most of the imported necessities of life. Most of the exported island products are sent to these two countries. The American line calls at Pago Pago, and not at Apia.

The prestige of the whites is not enhanced by the fact that the natives of the German islands regard themselves as subject to the Government of Mataapa, though they are living under the protection of Germany.